

October 8, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding #02-306

Dear Commissioners:

As a member of the California State Senate, I work with the business community in California to ensure it understands the impact of various governmental issues that can be detrimental to the growth of business and to the entire community. It has recently come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is reviewing SBC Pacific Bell's application to enter the long distance market.

In these tough economic times in California, it is essential that we encourage competition in the telecommunications industry. Legislators and regulators must do everything possible to provide more opportunities for the state's businesses. The competitive nature of the telecommunications industry will pressure the current long distance carriers to lower their rates – exactly what has happened in other states. Increased competition in the long distance market will create savings for customers, both residential and commercial, and has already begun to stimulate fierce competition in the local market as well.

It is my understanding that the FCC has successfully approved long distance applications in 23 states across the country, providing those residents the benefit of full, open telecommunications market. My state is no different. The Californians that I represent in the Senate want and deserve the savings and convenience of full competition. Our business climate needs this stimulus to reinforce our promise of opportunity and quality of life in California.

The FCC is in the position to support California consumers and businesses by approving SBC Pacific Bell's application for long distance. I look forward to your decision in favor of the application.

Sincerely,

/S/

William J. "Pete" Knight
Senator, 17th District